their fellow-subjects who have the misfortune not to be among their supporters. In my opinion, the proper protection of the public against the abuse of such powers as are given by Section 417 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not the discretion of changing Governments but the principle adopted and maintained by this Court for more than half a century to guide us in exercising our powers in regard to appeals against acquittals. If the law in Mysore were in this matter what Mr. Ramaswamy represents it to be in British India, for myself I should think it desirable that a change should be made in the law by legislation as soon as possible. I shall certainly lend no hand to any attempt to deprive His Highness' subjects of one of the advantages which they enjoy over British Indian subjects."

**Mr. V. VENKATAPPA.**—With reference to answer to (*a*) may I know if the Advocate-General was consulted before the appeal was preferred ?

**Mr. PRESIDENT.**—The member is repeating questions already put and answered in another connection.

**Mr. V. VENKATAPPA.**—What was the opinion expressed by the Advocate-General ?

**Mr. PRESIDENT.**—Government cannot disclose it.

**Mr. V. VENKATAPPA.**—What was the reason for appointing a separate officer for conducting the appeal ?

**Mr. PRESIDENT.**—Government had done so under similar circumstances in the past, and they have followed the same procedure in this case.

**Mr. V. VENKATAPPA.**—Had there been instances in the past of the Advocate-General being superseded ?

**Mr. H. V. NARAYANA RAO.**—There is no question of supersession at all.

**Mr. V. VENKATAPPA.**—The Public Prosecutor is an officer lower in status than the Advocate-General. Was there any instance in the past of a Public Prosecutor having been appointed in preference to the Government Advocate or Advocate-General as the case may be ?

**Mr. PRESIDENT.**—That question also has been answered already.

## Death by Suicide of Mr. P. V. K. Murthy.

*Q.*—159. **Mr. B. M. VENUGOPAL SETTY** (Kolar—Urban).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it has come to their notice that Mr. P. V. K. Murthy of the Mysore Electrical Department committed suicide in July 1941 ;

(*b*) whether, in the light of certain letters and the consternation caused thereby in the minds of the public of the State, they would be pleased to set up an open Enquiry Committee to go into the details of the matter and to suggest ways and means of such tragedies not recurring in the State ;

(*c*) how the survivors in the family and the dependants of the late Mr. P. V. K. Murthy have been or will be compensated ;

(*d*) (i) the service,
(ii) qualifications,
(iii) pay at the commencement of 1940-41 and,
(iv) at the time of death of the late Mr. P. V. K. Murthy ?

*A.*—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT** (**Mr. M. G. Mehkri**).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. As at the inquest it was held that his death was due to suicide.

(*c*) The question of granting scholarships to his children is under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) (i) Ten years.
(ii) B. Sc., B. S. E. E., A.M.I.E.E.
(iii) Rs. 450. Rs. 35 C.A.
(iv) Same as above.

**Mr. B. M. VENUGOPALA SETTY.**—Have the Government enquired into the causes of the death of the gentleman ?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—The Police must have made the necessary enquiries.

**Mr. B. M. VENUGOPALA SETTY.**—When a highly placed Government officer committed suicide, should the Government not have scented that it must have been due to some extraordinary reasons and conducted an enquiry into the matter ?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—Government did not think that an enquiry was necessary.

**Mr. B. M. VENUGOPALA SETTY.**—Has not the State lost the services of a highly qualified officer in the death of Mr. P. V. K. Murthy?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—All those concerned with him sustained a loss.

**Mr. B. M. VENUGOPALA SETTY.**—Is it not desirable to appoint a committee even now to enquire into the tragedy and thereby satisfy the public?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—That is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. B. M. VENUGOPALA SETTY.**—Some letters were published in the *Prajamatha* soon after the death of the gentleman. Do the Government feel that those letters are genuine?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—That is not a supplementary question.

**Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH SETTY.**—What are the reasons mentioned in the two letters for his committing suicide?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—That would come in more appropriately in connection with the next question.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—Both the questions relate to the same subject. Can they not be taken together?

**Mr. PRESIDENT.**—I have no objection to both questions being taken together.

*Q.*—171. **Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH SETTY** (Goribidnur—Rural).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether they are aware that two letters written by Mr. P. V. K. Murthy at the time of his suicide were published in the *Prajamata* on page 4 of its weekly issue dated 3rd August 1941;

(*b*) whether they have made investigations into the charges levelled against the Head of the Electrical Department in those letters;

(*c*) if no action has been taken in the matter so far, the reasons for the same?

*A.*—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. G. Mehkri).**—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No, as it was found to be unnecessary.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*b*).

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.** Two letters written by the deceased were published in the papers. Have they come to the notice of the Government?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—Yes.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—What action did the Government take on them?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—No action was considered necessary.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—Were any enquiries made?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—No.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—Are the Government aware that there were differences of opinion between Mr. Murthy and the Departmental Head; that he expected bad treatment at his hands and was that the reason why he committed suicide?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—From the contents of the letters, it may seem to be so.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—In spite of it, Government considered that no enquiry was called for?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—Yes.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—What was the reason for coming to such a conclusion?

**Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.**—That was the opinion of Government. The reasons cannot be given.

**Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.**—The letters showed that there were serious differences of opinion between the deceased and the department and that was the reason for his committing suicide. Under such circumstances should not the Government have enquired whether it was so or not? A mere statement that there was no need for an enquiry cannot satisfy members. Satisfactory reasons must be adduced for the position taken up by the Government.

**The MINISTER for LAW (Rajasevaprasakta A. V. Ramanathan).**—Government perused the letters in question and